

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An accelerator pedal comprising:

a stopper member attached to a floor of a driver's seat of the vehicle;

a pad member having a pad for receiving a depression force exerted by a driver;

a stopper fitting section provided on the pad member and including nails fitted into the stopper member and supporting plates connecting the pad member and the nails;

nail catch sections provided in the stopper member and against which the nails are hooked; a hinge section provided connecting the pad member and the stopper fitting section, wherein

the nails are hooked against the nail catch sections, and

a backup plate is provided against which the supporting plates abut, said backup plate abutting a back side of each one of the nails and securing the engagement between the nails and the nail catch sections.

5. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 4, wherein the backup plate urges the nails upward, securing the engagement between the nails and the nail catch sections.

6. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 4, wherein the backup plate has a nail relief hole that receives one of the nails when the nails are hooked against the nail catch sections.

7. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 5, wherein the backup plate has a nail relief hole that receives one of the nails when the nails are hooked against the nail catch sections

8. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 4, wherein a first release hole is provided in the stopper fitting section and a second release hole is provided in the stopper member around the nail catch section in alignment with the first release hole.

9. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 5, wherein a first release hole is provided in the stopper fitting section and a second release hole is provided in the stopper member around the nail catch section in alignment with the first release hole.

10. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 6, wherein a first release hole is provided in the stopper fitting section and a second release hole is provided in the stopper member around the nail catch section in alignment with the first release hole.

11. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 7, wherein a first release hole is provided in the stopper fitting section and a second release hole is provided in the stopper member around the nail catch section in alignment with the first release hole.

12. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 4, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded in a resin material.

13. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 5, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded in a resin material.

14. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 6, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded in a resin material.

15. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 7, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded in a resin material.

16. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 8, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded in a resin material.

17. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 9, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded in a resin material.

18. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 10, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded in a resin material.

19. (Previously Presented) An accelerator pedal according to claim 11, wherein the pad member, the hinge section, the stopper fitting section are integrally molded in a resin material.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of assembling an accelerator pedal comprising:
attaching a stopper member to a floor of a driver's seat of the vehicle;

providing a pad member having a pad for receiving a depression force exerted by a driver;

providing a stopper fitting section on the pad member and including nails to be fitted into the stopper member and supporting plates connecting the pad member and the nails;

providing nail catch sections in the stopper member and against which the nails can be hooked;

providing a hinge section for connecting the pad member and the stopper fitting section;

inserting the nails toward the nail catch sections with the supporting plates bent inwardly from an initial state;

hooking the nails against the nail catch sections after the insertion with the supporting plates returned to the initial state; and

providing and positioning a backup plate which prevents the supporting plates from being deformed from the initial state, so that the backup plate secures the engagement between the nails and the nail catch sections.